

Legislative Analysis



COUNTY SHERIFF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4981 (H-1) as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Brian BeGole

Committee: Elections

Complete to 10-25-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4981 would amend the Michigan Election Law to require an individual to meet one or both of the following qualifications in order to be eligible for election as a county sheriff:

- The individual has been a licensed law enforcement officer under the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) Act for at least five years.
- The individual has been employed by a county sheriff in a local correctional facility as a corrections officer, supervisor, or administrator for at least five years and has been certified by the Michigan Sheriffs' Coordinating and Training Council (MSCTC).

Current officeholders would be exempt from these requirements.

MCL 168.191

BRIEF DISCUSSION:

Supporters of the bill argue that eligibility requirements are necessary to ensure that a county sheriff is prepared for their many responsibilities, as there often is not time for on-the-job training. The bill would ensure that sheriffs have experience in the field and an understanding of public safety protocols.

Opponents argue that it should be left to the voters to determine whether a candidate is sufficiently qualified.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state, counties, or other local units of government.

POSITIONS:

Representatives of the following entities testified in support of the bill (10-3-23):

- Macomb County Sheriff
- Michigan Sheriffs' Association

The following entities indicated opposition to the bill:

- Election Integrity Network (10-3-23)
- Pure Integrity for Michigan Elections (10-10-23)

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